

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment meets the requirement under 37 CFR 1.116(b)(1) for entry of amendments after final rejection, since it simply rewrites allowable claim 15 as an independent claim, and cancels rejected claims or makes them dependent on an allowable claim as appropriate. Entry of the amendment and allowance of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Paragraph 6 of the Office Action requires cancellation of non-elected claims 17 to 24. These claims are all canceled in the preceding amendment. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to canceled claims 17 to 24 before prosecution of the current application is complete.

In paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 15 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the subject matter of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the foregoing amendment, claim 15 has been rewritten as an independent claim incorporating the subject matter of claim 1, which has been canceled. It is therefore submitted that claim 15 is now allowable, along with claim 16 which depends from claim 15.

Claim 2 has been amended to depend from claim 15 and should therefore be allowable, along with claim 3 which depends from claim 2. Claims 4, 6 and 7 have been canceled since the subject matter of these claims is included in claim 16. Claims 5, 9, 11, 13, and 14, which previously depended from claim 4, have been amended to depend from allowable claim 16, and should therefore now be allowable. Claim 8, which previously depended from claim 6, has also been amended to depend from allowable claim 16. Claims 10 and 12, which previously depended from claim 1, have been amended to depend from allowable claim 16. It is therefore submitted that claims 2,3,5, and 8 to 14 should also now be allowable.

It is submitted that the foregoing amendment and argument deals with all grounds of objection and rejection. It is believed that claims 2,3,5, and 8 to 16 are now in condition for allowance, and early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any outstanding grounds of objection and rejection which could be dealt with by

means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Docket No. BJKRU 1029551